

The claims have been amended to overcome the objection to Claim 9 and the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Toda and Tani, for the reasons noted at pages 5-8 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses all art rejections.

Each of independent Claims 1 and 9 recites a novel combination of structure and function whereby the video camera stores in a memory a plurality of correction information for correcting a change of optical characteristics caused by the operation of the physical element. The correction information corresponds to the operational state of the physical element and may be used to correct the optical characteristics of the physical element itself by, for example, the structures recited in dependent Claims 2-6. The correction means then corrects this change of optical characteristics in accordance with the correcting information which is read out from the memory means and which corresponds to the light transmission factor or the light transmission amount of the physical element. At least these features of the present invention are nowhere disclosed by the cited art.

Toda corrects spectral transmission variations caused by a change of the aperture in a liquid crystal iris by automatically controlling the white balance. However,

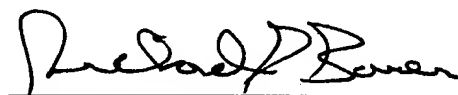
this white balance is merely controlled based on a video signal output from the image pickup element. Therefore, the correction by white balance control is not correction of a change of optical characteristics caused by a change of the aperture of the liquid crystal iris. In other words, Toda corrects both color change caused by an object and color change caused by the change of transmission characteristics in the iris. Both of these corrections are performed by controlling the white balance based on the video signal. On the other hand, the present invention acts to correct the change of the optical characteristic of the physical element by using stored correction information which corresponds to the operating state of the physical element. Note, also, that the present invention corrects the change of the optical characteristic of the physical element before the video signal output from the image pickup element is corrected by a processing circuit. Therefore, the salient claimed features of the present invention are nowhere disclosed or suggested by Toda.

Tani controls the aperture diameter of a diaphragm, and controls an iris and shutter speed according to the amount of incident light. However, Tani fails to disclose or suggest the memory and the correction means as recited in the claims of the subject application. Accordingly, Tani alone or in combination with Toda fails to disclose or suggest the salient claimed features of the present invention.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 31,588

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

F501\W172387\dew